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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,529	03/04/2002	Tsuyoshi Maeda	111974	1071
25944	7590	12/03/2003	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			DUONG, THOI V	
P.O. BOX 19928			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			2871	

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/086,529

Applicant(s)

MAEDA ET AL.

Examiner

Thoi V Duong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 01 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,3-6,8-14,16 and 18-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2,7,15 and 17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 0502.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, claims 2, 7, 15 and 17 on August 29, 2003 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the examiner must examine the entire application since the subject matter of all claims 1-40 is sufficiently related and the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. This is not found persuasive because the application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct species according to Figs. 1 and 2 respectively; therefore, the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. In addition, the Applicant separated the claims in three groups where the dependent claims of two independent claims 1 and 2 are overlapped. This is erroneous since these three groups are not patentable distinct species.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, 16 and 18-40 to an invention non-elected with traverse filed 08/29/2003. Applicant is given ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the date of this letter, whichever is longer, to cancel the noted claims or take other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144). Failure to take action during this period will be treated as authorization to cancel the noted claims by Examiner's Amendment and pass the case to issue. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted since this application will be passed to issue.

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The prosecution of this case is closed except for consideration of the above matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2, 7, 15 and 17 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art of record fairly suggests or shows all of the limitations as claimed. Specifically,

Re claim 2, none of the prior art of record discloses, in combination with other limitations as claimed, a liquid crystal device, comprising:

a scanning signal line, an image signal line, a first electrode, a second electrode and an active element formed on a face of said second substrate on a side of said liquid crystal layer, said first electrode and said second electrode being formed so that an electric field substantially parallel to the surface of the substrate with respect to said liquid crystal layer can be applied thereto, the second electrode being formed substantially over all of a display area of the liquid crystal device with the first insulation film interposed therebetween so as to cover said scanning signal line, said image signal line and said active element, and having an opening, said first electrode being formed in each of pixels in a linear shape having a specified line width on said second electrode with the second insulation film interposed therebetween, said first electrode and said active element being connected through the opening of said second electrode, and at least one of said first electrode and said second electrode operating as a reflecting electrode that causes incident light coming from a direction of said first substrate.

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The most relevant reference, USPN 6,577,368 B1 of Yuh et al., fails to disclose or suggest a second electrode having an opening where a first electrode and an active element are connected together. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the reference of Yuh et al. only discloses a reflective type LCD using natural light comprising a first linear electrode 1 and a second planar electrode 2 being formed so that an electric field substantially parallel to the surface of the substrate with respect to a liquid crystal layer 500 can be applied thereto and being made of opaque material having high reflectance (col. 7, lines 7-20).

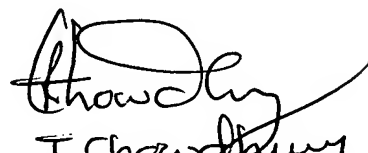
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thoi V. Duong whose telephone number is (703) 308-3171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim, can be reached at (703) 305-3492.

Thoi Duong

11/25/2003



T. Chowdhury
Primary Examiner